Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-93-163 *25 August 1993*

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Leaders Willing To Mediate Nicaraguan Crisis

PA2408194293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1828 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The four Central American presidents who will meet in Costa Rica tomorrow to study the Nicaraguan situation are willing to mediate that country's crisis, according to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani.

"The objective of the meeting is to discuss the Central American integration protocol, but it also is necessary for us to study the crisis in Nicaragua to see how the Central American presidents can help resolve this senseless crisis," Cristiani stated today.

The Nicaraguan crisis got worse Thursday [19 August] and Friday with the double kidnapping of politicians and officials by a group of "recontras" in the northern Nicaraguan mountains and a group of former Sandinist soldiers in Managua.

Cristiani announced that Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro would not attend the meeting in Costa Rica tomorrow, and that it is still uncertain whether she will attend the meeting in Metapan, El Salvador. President Chamorro had planned to meet with her Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran colleagues—presidents of the countries that form the "Group of Four"—on Friday.

A source at the Costa Rican Presidency told ACAN-EFE that Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio still had not confirmed his participation in tomorrow's meeting, which was called by Honduran President Rafael Callejas.

Cristiani said the intervention of the Central American presidents in the Nicaraguan crisis could only take place if Violeta Chamorro requests it. She would also have to request the postponement of the Metapan meeting, where the presidents were scheduled to discuss regional integration matters, he added.

"We have to respect the sovereignty of Nicaragua, and we cannot present proposals for solutions if we are not invited to do so," the Salvadoran president emphasized. Cristiani, however, highlighted that he and his colleagues are more than willing to help Chamorro find a peaceful solution to one of the most serious crisis confronted by her administration.

Cristiani reiterated that Nicaragua's political instability may affect its economic integration with the region. He added that the country's political stability, which "must not be lost because it has claimed so many lives and efforts," is also at stake. He added that Violeta Barrios Chamorro is determined to fully investigate possible ties between Nicaraguan employees and an alleged international terrorist network operating in that nation, according to evidence found in Managua in May in an arsenal owned by former Salvadoran guerrillas. Also discovered in the arsenal were plans to kidnap Latin American figures. These plans are being investigated by Interpol and police in several countries such as the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and Spain.

Meanwhile, Cristiani denounced the gunrunning of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), now a political party, to the Guatemalan guerrillas because, as he explained, "the authorities have seized weapons from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) with serial numbers that coincide with those of the FMLN."

The Salvadoran president confirmed that the future discovery of weapons owned by former guerrilla fighters will be considered by his government as a common crime. This decision has been accepted publicly by the FMLN.

In this regard, Cristiani expressed doubts regarding the total surrender of weapons by the former guerrillas, because the UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal) declared last week that the FMLN has concluded the dismantling of its military structure, but that the organization is not a completely disarmed. He pointed out that this statement allows for the future discovery of weapons, although those that were already surrendered and destroyed after December 1992, when the FMLN was legalized as a political party, "were enough to reorganize the FMLN's military sector."

G-3 Deplores Events

PA2508022493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Caracas, 24 Aug (EFE)—The Group of Three (G-3), which comprises Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, today deplored "the recent events in Nicaragua" and called on those involved "to resume a constructive dialogue."

The G-3 statement was issued in a communique by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry as Venezuela currently hosts "the temporary secretariat" of that organization. The note says the G-3 members are committed to strengthening democratic institutions and consolidating the peace process in Central America, thus they "condemn the use of violence and means contrary to the universal principles of coexistence."

The communique calls for a resumption of dialogue and a "preservation of the spirit of tolerance and agreement, such as Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has requested, to again find the road to national reconciliation."

Rio Group Issues Declaration

PY2408153393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2338 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Santiago, 23 Aug (EFE)—The Rio Group member countries today expressed their deep concern about the events taking place in Nicaragua that seriously affect its

national coexistence, threatening its democratic consolidation process and respect for human rights.

In a joint declaration released in Santiago de Chile, where the Rio Group "pro tempore secretariat" is operating, the group rejects the use of violence and intimidation as a means to solve the political, economic, and social problems of Nicaragua.

The message endorses "a peaceful and rational dialogue as the only negotiation instrument among all the parties involved in the national problem."

The 13 Rio Group member countries "fervently call on the armed groups holding high-ranking government officials, congressmen, political leaders, and other people against their will to immediately free their hostages, fully respecting their integrity and rights."

In conclusion, the Rio Group expresses "its firm support for the constitutional government of Violeta Chamorro and the Nicaraguan peace process."

Created in 1986 as a support organization for the peace process in Central America, and first known as the Contadora Group, the current members of the Rio Group are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, El Salvador representing Central America, and Jamaica, representing the Caribbean countries.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Welcomes Pastors for Peace to Havana

FL2508005893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] Greetings. We will talk about greetings, about the greeting that was extended to the hunger strikers from Laredo at the Jose Marti International Airport only a few hours ago, about the greeting they received, enveloped in a strong embrace by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Greetings—to talk about the recognition extended by the residents of the capital to those who showed firmness, friendship, and solidarity with Cuba, about the shouts of Long Live the Pastors for Peace, and Down with the Blockade.

The pastors' first action on stepping on Cuban territory, sharing a firm embrace with Fidel, was also a recognition of the value that the head of the Revolution has attributed to their humanitarian action of remaining on a hunger strike for the yellow bus, for dignity, for the Cuban people, and against the blockade.

Fidel Castro also accompanied them on a walk along the airstrip to greet the Cuban clergymen who staged a vigil of prayer and reflection in solidarity with those in Laredo who were on a hunger strike for Cuba and its cause. Handshakes, embraces, anecdotes, and a tear or two marked 24 August in bold letters, in recognition of the unity between believers and nonbelievers, Cubans and Americans for the cause of this small island.

The men and women of Laredo are all here. I leave you with a name: Lucius Walker. Reverend Lucius Walker, with whom we talked about the Pastors for Peace. The Pastors for Peace, the Laredo hunger strikers, have arrived in Cuba.

Electric Power Enterprise New Blackout Schedule

FL2508010493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Havana City Electric Power Enterprise has announced that effective 25 August, a new schedule for power outages will be established, tied to available power-generating capacity. Therefore, beginning on Wednesday, 25 August, there will be interruptions from 0500 to 0900 in Plaza de la Revolucion and Cerro municipalities; from 0900 to 1300 in Guanabacoa, Regla, Cotorro, San Miguel del Padron, and Habana del Este; from 1300 to 1900 in Centro Habana and Habana Vieja; from 1900 to 2230 in Marianao, Playa, and Lisa; and from 2000 to 2300 in Boyeros, 10 de Octubre, and Arroyo Naranjo.

In each of these schedules, there may be emergency blackouts in some municipalities if necessary, according to Arturo Mora de la Cruz, spokesman for the Cuban capital's power company.

Alarcon Notes Need for Integration in Speech

FL2508005993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], highlighted the need for achieving economic and political integration on the subcontinent in a speech to the Latin American Integration Association in Montevideo, Uruguay. During the ceremony, there were expressions of solidarity with Cuba and condemnation of the U.S. economic blockade.

Alarcon noted that ever since the last century, the Cuban revolutionary movement has called for integration, and during a visit to Montevideo in 1959, Cuban President Fidel Castro emphasized the need for integration in both the economic and political spheres.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Abreu Sergio Bonilla received Alarcon tonight. The ANPP president will arrive in Buenos Aires on 25 August, before continuing with his return trip to Havana.

Finance Minister Rodriguez Returns From Hanoi

FL2408152593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Jose Luis Rodriguez, minister president of the State Committee for Finance, has returned to Cuba after a five-day working visit to Vietnam. In statements to the media in Hanoi shortly before returning to Havana, Rodriguez said he had gone to Vietnam in order to examine, on the spot, the economic progress achieved there over the past few years and Vietnam's innovations in maintaining a socialist course.

Rodriguez said: I think that we in Cuba are now at a stage where we need to think things out well so as to be able to make very serious decisions quickly. However, in any case, I see constructive solutions to our economic crisis without abandoning the accomplishments of the Revolution.

Rodriguez, who arrived in Havana last night, was named finance minister by the Council of State on 4 August.

Program Views Agricultural Industry 'Instability'

FL2408172093

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network at 1600 GMT on 24 August carries its "Straight Talk" program. Host Juan Carlos Roque and guest Eloy Concepcion, a reporter from the TRABAJADORES newspaper, discuss the instability of agricultural industry.

Concepcion begins by pointing out that instability has always affected the agricultural industry but that today the effects can be seen due to other problems. He adds that other industries such as tourism are now competing with the agriculture and sugar industry in importance and that because of that some of the agroindustrial complexes lack workers. Concepcion goes on to say that production in many of these complexes has dropped significantly due to this decline in workers and a shortage of resources.

Roque highlights that the sugar industry is the country's main source of income. He goes on to note the need for simplifying the operation of these complexes to be able to manage resources more efficiently.

Concepcion adds that many of the agroindustrial complexes are taking steps to improve working conditions. Some are building housing for their workers and they hope to supply their workers with the products they need. Concepcion notes that despite the shortages the country has the potential to produce up to 10 million tons of sugar. He concludes by saying that all steps must be carefully analyzed in order to prevent further losses.

Newsprint Shortage Forces GRANMA Reduction

FL2408200893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The newspaper GRANMA, official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, informs its readers that in view of the scarcity of paper in the nation because of the conditions of the special period, and in order to make better use of available reserves without affecting the number of editions to be printed, GRANMA will have to reduce the number of pages in each copy. For this reason, as of this week, our daily paper will be putting out mainly four-page issues, although it could occasionally put out an eight- or 12-page issue. The particular model of the machine used to print the paper, when spools of paper this size are used constantly, will not allow the use of color on four-page issues. This is not the case for 12-page issues, on which the newspaper will continue to use the current red.

Antigua and Barbuda

Marshall Continues To Seek Ruling Party Leadership

FL2408191093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 24, CANA—Former Antigua and Barbuda Trade Minister Hugh Marshall said Tuesday he was still in the race to become the new leader of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP).

In a statement, Marshall said he had "not dropped out of the contest for political leader of the Antigua Labour Party" which will be decided at a convention scheduled for September 5-6.

ALP chairman, Health Minister Adolphous Freeland, said Monday Marshall would not be contesting the leadership position because no one had seconded his nomination.

"I contend that according to the Constitution and the rules of the Antigua Labour Party that I was duly nominated and there is no legitimate reasons for my name to be removed from the ballot," Marshall said.

Marshall, a backbencher, said the ALP executive had not communicated with his constituency branch which had nominated him, and he had requested a meeting with the "relevant party body to have this matter properly addressed."

"I am seeking to do so and hope to make a more informative statement later," he said.

The winner of the contest will replace Prime Minister Vere Bird, 83, who is retiring from politics next year at the end of the government's current term.

Planning Minister Lester Bird and Information Minister John St. Luce, who both received the same number of votes when the ALP made a first attempt last year to choose a new leader, are the other candidates.

Haiti

Further on Chamber of Deputies Ratification of Malval

FL2408153693 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Robert Malval was finally ratified on 23 August. Prime minister-designate Robert Malval, who was chosen by President Aristide, was ratified by the Chamber of Deputies. After much hemming and hawing, the Chamber of Deputies voted 68 [number as heard] for, 11 against, and 12 abstentions. The following is an excerpt of the proceedings at the Chamber of Deputies on 23 August.

[Begin Chamber of Deputies President Antoine Joseph recording] Honorable colleagues of the assembly: Before reaching the last point of the session, which we opened on Wednesday, 17 August [day and date as heard], may I, on behalf of the office, extend first my congratulations to the next prime minister. We hope the mistakes, which were made in the establishment of a true democracy in Haiti, will be corrected. Allow the office to extend its congratulations to the honorable members of the committee who completed a formidable task, a task that does great credit to the Chamber of Deputies. We want to extend our congratulations as well to all the deputies of the 45th legislature. Although some colleagues think there were futile discussions, the office considers that you were equal to the task. We, the members of the office, are proud of you, honorable colleagues of the assembly.

We want to conclude by noting that we will soon hear the statement of general policy of the next government. We are obliged to tell you that out of propriety for having had the Senate wait for a long time, we are going to give priority to the Senate so they can hear the statement of general policy before we do. We call on the deputies to remain at the disposal of the office. As soon as the Senate finishes with Malval, we will invite him to appear here the next day so we can hear his statement of general policy. [end recording]

It should be recalled that Robert Malval....[pauses] The choice by President of Robert Malval, 50 years old, as new Haitian prime minister, was ratified in Port-au-Prince on 23 August by the Chamber of Deputies with....[pauses] After several days of discussions, the vote, which was broadcast live by the state- owned television, was reached with 38 votes for, nine against, and 12 abstentions [numbers as heard]. Several parliamentarians did not participate in the vote. In spite of their political opposition, many deputies announced their intention to vote yes in order to have the trade embargo and oil blockade against the country lifted.

The five parliamentarians of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, the party of former Prime Minister Marc Bazin, voted in favor of the ratification. The socialist parliamentarians of the Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Panpra, one of the two rival branches of Haitian socialism, who are not part of the new Haitian ministerial cabinet, announced during this vote their intention of being an honest, democratic, and constructive opposition to the government of Malval. The choice of the latter, a 50-year-old businessman, close adviser to the president priest, was already ratified by the Senate on 17 August.

The new prime minister is also due to present to each chamber in the Parliament a statement of general policy followed by a vote of confidence. A negative vote by the senators and the deputies would not put into question his appointment to the post of prime minister, but would force him to make a new declaration of general policy while correcting the contentious aspects of his program. It is only at the conclusion of these two positive votes that the prime minister will officially take office with his government, which will allow the suspension of the trade embargo and the oil blockade against Haiti by the UN Security Council. The country, whose various activities are paralyzed, is only living on its last strategic fuel reserves.

New Premier Presents General Policy Before Senate

FL2408213593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] New Prime Minister Robert Malval, who has received the approval of both legislative chambers, is at this moment presenting his general policy statement in the Senate. The session started about 20 minutes ago with a minute of meditation for Haitian victims since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986.

The prime minister intends to preserve national interest, to follow a path without exclusion and ostracism. The prime minister thinks that the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is necessary, as is that of all those elected on 16 December 1990 and on 20 January 1991. Only the return of Father Aristide can open the way to democracy, he stated. Robert Malval presents justice, respect for human rights, and equality for all as the rules for democracy. The prime minister requested and obtained the minute of meditation for victims since the fall of the Duvaliers in Haiti.

Position on Foreign Intervention

FL2408215793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Interview with Haitian Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval, by Clarence Renois; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Robert Malval, in an exclusive interview with Radio Metropole, stated that the sanctions will soon be lifted and that there is no threat to Haiti of intervention. I will remain in the post for only four months, said Prime Minister Robert Malval to Clarence Renois.

[Renois] Robert Malval has not even been officially invested in his post as prime minister, and already he is dreaming of leaving. The new head of government, newly ratified, reasserted his intention to hold power for only four months, or through the current calendar year. The prime minister assigned himself a very precise task: to appease the spirits in order to ease the return of President Aristide. Robert Malval also intends, however, to lay the foundations of a development indispensable to Haitian social progress. To achieve this, the prime minister, who should benefit from a national truce via the New York pact, is counting a great deal on international support. Malval's nomination should allow suspension of the economic sanctions and oil embargo against Haiti. In this regard, the new prime minister explained that he has an agreement with President Aristide:

[Begin recording] [Malval] The first actions we are going to take will be to normalize communication in Haiti, especially the press. We know that the independent press, that which you represent as well as the others, has always disciplined itself to provide objective information. I think that the first step in this appeasement campaign will be to bring back those whose mission it is to provide information. To do so implies respect for others. We must learn at once to manage our differences. We must end this wholesale moral massacre. That is a guarantee that we are giving to all Haitians, without exception.

[Renois] You are inheriting a government that is in a very difficult economic situation. You seem to forget that. Are you going to work to have the embargo, the

economic sanctions on Haiti, lifted? Mr. Malval, have you received a firm guarantee that the international community, as it has promised, is going to lift the sanctions on Haiti, such as the economic and oil embargo? You know the situation in which we are now living, without fuel.

[Malval] The answer is yes. Once the government takes office, the sanctions will be lifted, suspended. The country will emerge from its diplomatic isolation. I do not know much about the mechanics of suspending sanctions, but I believe there will be a quick vote by the UN Security Council, and even the OAS. I believe that the OAS secretary general is going to ask for the suspension of the sanctions. On the U.S. side, there will be a letter written by the person in charge of the U.S. Treasury to announce the resumption of normal trade relations with Haiti. I hope that this suspension of the sanctions will take place as soon as possible. I know that everything is already set in place for a quick lifting of the sanctions.

[Renois] Does this not contradict President Aristide's desire that no sanctions be lifted so long as human rights continue to be violated in the country?

[Malval] The president said this in a totally different context. First of all, it would not make sense that his own government would be put under sanction. I will not accept that. It is already a difficult task; that would make it impossible. I therefore clarified this point with the head of state and I can assure you that this misunderstanding, this mistake was clarified.

[Renois] For his first political experience, Robert Malval has chosen transparency as a slogan and formula for power management. The prime minister, who had some experience in the press as a former columnist for LE NOUVELLISTE, considers his relations good with the Fourth Estate, to which it is necessary to return respectability. It is necessary to stop the wholesale moral massacre and favor an objective, professional press, he stated. Malval also wants good relations with the Army, an open dialogue with the military institution. Links have been established and he thinks they must be reinforced. Robert Malval made a point of reassuring the sector that fears foreign intervention in Haiti. It will not be under my government, nor under President Aristide's that the foreigners will land in Haiti, he stated.

[Malval] I first agreed to fill this mission within the framework of the Governors Island Accord. I have already established some relations with the Army chiefs. Talks have been very open. I hope they will stay that way because without these talks, without a spirit of overture on both sides, it would be difficult for this government to fulfill the mission that is handed to it.

[Renois] Another important thing, Mr. Malval—there is a threat of intervention in the country. Are you aware of that?

[Malval] I can tell you that there is no threat of intervention. In any case, neither President Aristide nor I will make ourselves the instrument of such an intervention. I can assure you that there is no threat of intervention against Haiti.

[Renois] What about the technical assistance promised to Haiti? Is this not a beginning of intervention as some people fear, that foreigners will come armed into the country?

[Malval] From what I understand—as you said, the accord was prior to my government, but of course it commits my government—however, from what I understand, these assistants will wear civilian clothes, will not be armed, but they will be authorized to carry a weapon by the Haitian Armed Forces, as provided by the Constitution.

[Renois] How are you going to reassure those who are against you today, those who think that once in power you will favor intervention in the country, that your arrival in power makes Haiti even more dependent on foreigners and U.S. imperialism?

[Malval] If this perception remains after we have taken some action, our duty will be first to openly discuss this with those who already have this perception of us. We intend to hold open debates with all the social forces in the country, without exception. We can give a total guarantee that our government will never become the footstool of a foreign power in Haiti. If that occurs, this government will resign. I can assure you that we will not be the footstool of a foreign power. [end recording]

[Renois] Those were the initial statements by Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval who has been ratified by Parliament. He must present himself before the legislators—senators and deputies—for presentation of his government's general policy.

General Policy Statement Ratified

PA2508023793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Aug (EFE)—Following a four-hour session on 25 August, the Haitian Senate ratified Prime Minister Robert Malval's general policy statement.

Malval said in the statement that he will work with the support of all Haitians to create a climate of peace, harmony, and tolerance.

The prime minister said his mission is to unite all Haitians and that the government he will head will work on political, economic, and social issues.

PANPRA Says Malval Government Violates Pact

FL2408232193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Honest opposition is the stand of the Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA] in response to the ratification of Robert Malval as prime minister. PANPRA is not opposed to the ratification of Mr. Malval.

However, after analyzing the government [word indistinct] that Malval kindly communicated to PANPRA during his second meeting with party leader Serge Gilles, PANPRA sees this government, called quote government of small concord unquote, as violating the Governors Island Pact, which calls for a government of national concord in its Article 8.

This government of small concord will not have at its disposal the parliamentary base necessary for fulfillment of its mandate. This is why, PANPRA's note says, this party asks its deputies of the socialist bloc to undertake constructive, honest, democratic opposing action, to make use of their technical resources to verify Malval's papers within the verification committee, and to provide an objective, well-documented report to clarify all doubts concerning the constitutional qualifications of Malval for the post of prime minister. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

FMLN's Handal Rejects Cristiani Arms Statements

PA2408160093 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 20 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Party, has accused President Alfredo Cristiani of starting a pre-election political campaign against the ex-guerrillas by not laying to rest the arms affair. President Cristiani maintained yesterday that the FMLN still has weapons and he called on it to hand them over to consolidate a successful peace process.

The FMLN's political leader reacted today by saying that the FMLN has indeed dissolved its military structure. He added that the president has started to play a political game to favor ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] in the upcoming elections.

Handal maintained that President Cristiani is insisting on reexamining issues already cleared and approved by UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal). "We want to please Onusal," said the coordinator of the political party, which is getting ready to participate in the upcoming elections.

Handal also commented on the need to destroy all the weapons the Army confiscated from the guerrillas during the war. He said the government's refusal to make public a confiscated armament inventory shows it might use them in alleged discoveries of new "arms caches," adding that this is a dirty political game.

Onusal has already voiced its satisfaction for the disarmament of the ex-guerrillas' military apparatus; the government, however, insists the FMLN still has "arms caches" that must be destroyed.

Guatemala

De Leon Carpio Will Not Attend San Jose Meeting

PA2408234293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2211 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said he will not participate in the 25 August meeting among the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica in San Jose to evaluate the Nicaraguan crisis "because he was not invited."

Presidency Information Director Felix Loarca told ACAN-EFE that De Leon Carpio was quite surprised when asked today about the meeting and indicated that the only Central American presidential summit scheduled is the one scheduled next week in Metapan, El Salvador.

Loarca said De Leon had suspended his trip to the countryside to look after "matters of state," such as the initiative he plans to present before Congress to purge the judicial and legislative branches.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Antonio Monzon told ACAN-EFE that the Guatemalan president will not participate in the San Jose meeting "because Guatemala has no borders with Nicaragua."

Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon announced on 23 August the meeting called by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and Honduran President Rafael Callejas to analyze the regional integration process in addition to the situation in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua

Negotiating Commission Oversees Hostage Release

PA2508080793 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0711 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] This just in: Approximately 15 or 20 minutes ago, the negotiating commission, headed by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and Deputy Government Minister Joaquin Lobo, arrived at the National Opposition Union [UNO] building. A document is being drafted to release 11 hostages to this negotiating commission.

Omar Garcia reports:

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] they are releasing Luis Sanchez, Humberto Castilla, Andres Zuniga, Roger Guevara, Eugenio Lacayo, Joaquin Absalon Pastora, Edgar Quintana, Mario Montenegro, Wilfredo Navarro, and Alejandro Gaitan. Staying behind are Vice President Virgilio Godoy, Engineer Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, Reinaldo Hernandez, Duilio Baltodano, and Roger Mendieta Alfaro, who will remain as a guarantee for our safety. This will allow the Nicaraguans to get true reports of what is happening.

3-80 NF Still Holds Five Hostages

PA2508061093 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0512 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Isidora Acuna in Quilali—live]

[Text] The latest report we have indicates that five hostages remain in the hands of the 3-80 Northern Front in El Zungano. The fifth hostage is Special Disarmament Brigade member Captain Geovanny Perez. That is the last report I have received. Five hostages remain. [Words indistinct] according to what the government decides, because they are making the dismissal of Gen. Humberto Ortega, Eng. Antonio Lacayo, and Lenin Cerna the main condition.

It is appropriate to mention that it was extremely difficult to obtain the information [words indistinct] strict

security, particularly by the International Commission of Support and Verification members, who tried to prevent reporters from gaining access to the area. Nevertheless, we were able to approach the are where the talks were held to obtain the information.

Front Releases 11 Hostages

PA2508060293 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0504 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Quilali correspondent Isadora Acuna—live]

[Text] A last-minute report from Quilali states that the talks between the high-level commission sent by the government and the 3- 80 Northern Front High Command were broken off at 2345 [0445 GMT] because the Sandinist People's Army troops did not withdraw from the area.

As we heard in the communique read by Commander Esteban, 11 hostages were released. Although their names were not given, we learned that those released were members of the Special Disarmament Brigade [BED] and government officials Dr. Nora Arguello, of the Social Action Ministry; Carlos Guillen, of the National Institute for Agrarian Reform; and Augusto Oporta, of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. Still being held by the 3-80 Northern Front, as we reported earlier, are Sandinist Deputies Doris Tijerino and Carlos Gallo; Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Ernesto Sosa, chief of the BED; and BED Deputy Chief Ivan Portocarrero. Those four officials are still being held by the 3-80 Northern Front. We learned that they will not be released until the government agrees to dismiss Engineer Antonio Lacayo and General Humberto Ortega.

We want to stress that a member of the high command known as [word indistinct] said the negotiations will be resumed, that is, they will give the government 24 hours to meet their demands. However, they did not indicate when the talks would be resumed to determine the fate of the four hostages being held by the 3-80 Northern Front. That is the latest report from Quilali for Radio Ya listeners.

[Acuna reports live at 0512 GMT: "The latest report we have indicates that five hostages remain in the hands of the 3-80 Northern Front, in El Zungano. The fifth hostage is BED Captain Geovanny Perez. That is the last report I have received. Five hostages remain. [Words indistinct] according to what the government decides, because they are making the dismissal of Gen. Humberto Ortega, Eng. Antonio Lacayo, and Lenin Cerna the main condition. It is appropriate to mention that it was extremely difficult to obtain the information [words indistinct] strict security, particularly by the International Commission of Support and Verification members, who tried to prevent reporters from gaining access to the area. Nevertheless, we were able to approach the are where the talks were held to obtain the information."]

Commando Takes More Hostages

PA2408210693 Paris AFP in Spanish 2042 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (AFP) - The so-called "Dignity and Sovereignty Commando" took AFP photographer Matas Recard, REUTER photographer Mario Cienfuegos, and NBC journalist Krupskaya Alis as hostages this afternoon. The hostages themselves reported this during a telephone call.

Managua Kidnappers Release Two Hostages

PA2408193293 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Omar Garcia from the National Opposition Union headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] We have been told two persons will be released. They are Mr. Eliseo Nunez and Ricardo Vega. They are going to be presented to the commission and to the media now. Let us see if we can get closer to where they are.

[Unidentified speaker] El Chacal is releasing hostages. We are going to continue negotiating with the commission. Stay calm, Nicaraguan people. Be patient. [three-second break in reception] Commando 40 will read a document on the release of Mr. Eliseo Nunez and Mr. Ricardo Vega.

[Commando 40 member] The document states the following: Document on the release of hostages. The Sovereignty and Dignity Commando, which is inside the installations of the Political Council of the National Opposition Union, is hereby releasing Dr. Eliseo Nunez and Dr. Ricardo Vega, who were taken hostage as a result of the commando attack on Friday, 20 August. This humanitarian act is a sign that we want to make progress in the national disarmament and peace process and in the security of Nicaraguans. This was achieved thanks to efforts by the commission headed by former President Daniel Ortega and the rest of the members.

Signed in Managua, 24 August 1993

[Unidentified speaker] We want to make it clear that the number of hostages in our power is now fewer. We still have Nicaraguan Vice President Dr. Virgilio Godoy, Engineer Alfredo Cesar, Reinaldo Hernandez, Dulio Baltodano, Luis Sanchez Sancho, Humberto Castilla, Romulo Mendieta Alfaro, Andres Pinilla, Roger Guevara, Juan Velasquez, (Eugenio Lacayo), Joaquin Absalon Pastora, [name indistinct], Edgar Quintana, Mario Montenegro Castillo, Wilfredo Navarro, and (Alejandro Valcamp), for a total of 16 hostages. The negotiations have not ended. We are going to continue with the talks in the course of the day. The day has not ended yet. It ends at midnight.

Commando Plans To Release Hostages

PA2508065893 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0529 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Omar Garcia from National Opposition Union (UNO) Headquarters, in Managua—live]

[Excerpt] We are now being notified by the Dignity and Sovereignty Command, specifically by Commander 31, that they will reciprocate the action of Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal, chief of the 3-80 Northern Front. They will release the same amount of hostages. Four people remain hostage in El Zungano, Quilali. They are Doris Tijerino, Carlos Gallo, and the chief and deputy chief of the Special Disarmament Brigade.

All personnel are mobilizing. The reporters gathered here understand that commandos of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command have been instructed by Commander 31. Apparently, an urgent meeting is being called. They may call the commission headed by Commander Daniel Ortega, which also includes Deputy Government Minister Lobo; Dr. Vilma Nunez de Escorcia, Nicaragua Human Rights Center president; and Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann. We learned that they may be called to release the 11 persons still being held hostage to reciprocate the actions in the northern region.

Most of us here understand that a communique was read at 2333 hours after the meeting ended with the negotiating commission, headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. They agreed to release 11 hostages in El Zungano. The commission is preparing to travel to El Zungano. They will not return to Managua today. That is the situation.

There was some skepticism. Since the meeting began very late, it was thought that there would not be any response today and that there would not be anything until 0600 or 0700 in the morning. At this time, however, it has been reported that they will hold an urgent meeting and are trying to call the negotiating commission. That is still not official, but apparently they will be called on the telephone or through the media. They will release 11 more hostages in the UNO office. [passage omitted]

3-80 Northern Front Issues Communique on Talks

PA2508055193 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0459 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Quilali correspondent Isidora Acuna—live]

[Text] [Acuna] We have a last minute report: The talks between the high-level commission, led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the 3-80 Northern Front were broken off moments ago because, according to the recontras' staff, the government failed to fulfill its pledge to withdraw troops from the requested zones, including El Jicaro, Quilali, Murra, and Wiwili. We repeat: The talks between the high-level government commission, led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the 3-80 Northern Front staff were suspended, broken off moments ago because the recontras' staff said the government failed to fulfill its pledge to withdraw the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to the zone of Ocotal, as the recontras had requested. Here is Commander Esteban, of the 3-80 Northern Front, to read a communique to various reporters, who were granted access to the place where the meeting was being held:

[Esteban] Quilali, 24 August 1993

We hereby report the following to the national and international public:

1. The 3-80 Northern Front remains firm in its political demands, which have compelled us to take up our weapons again to defend our lives in the face of systematic assassinations by the EPS and its paramilitary groups of demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance members.

2. In a gesture of goodwill from the 3-80 Northern Front to the mediation commission led by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, we have agreed to release 11 hostages.

3. We state quite clearly that the country's grave political situation is the responsibility of the government, given its refusal to take specific positive steps regarding what is and continues to be a prevailing problem, meaning the Sandinist military structure.

4. The 3-80 Northern Front will be willing to continue the negotiation process once the government begins to take specific steps concerning the security problem.

[Signed] 3-80 Northern Front

Talks To Resume in Quilali 25 Aug

PA2508073793 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0657 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Quilali correspondent Isidora Acuna—live]

[Text] We have a last minute report: Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta has just confirmed that talks between the high-level commission and the 3-80 Northern Front staff will resume early this morning. We repeat: The talks, broken off at 0000, will resume early today because the commission went to Las Cruces, approximately 5 km south of Quilali, and ascertained that there were no military troops in the area. They learned that three members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] were there at approximately 2300 and left for San Juan de Rio Coco. Everything seems to indicate that the EPS members were involved in a (?community) action, and when they learned [words indistinct] they withdrew to San Juan de Rio Coco. Here is Government Minister Alfredo Cesar:

[Begin recording] [Cesar] [Words indistinct] talked to the people, who said they had seen those men. They certainly confirmed the presence of three EPS members.

They were still there at 2300. They were presumably stragglers and were traveling in a pickup truck. The information from the people riding in the truck was very precise, but we considered the possibility [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Were they armed?

[Cesar] We do not know [words indistinct] at 2300. They could be remnants of a group that had been operating in the area and failed to join their unit. However, they confirmed they had seen the Army at 1700. The Army was there and it withdrew hours later, presumably to San Juan de Rio Coco. Therefore, the information has been confirmed, but there is no reason to worry. There were three men in olive drab garb [words indistinct] if they really belong to the Army.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Cesar] [Words indistinct] under these circumstances had to travel approximately 15 minutes.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Cesar] We expect it will be done early tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Early tomorrow.

[Cesar] Yes. Thank you. [end recording]

El Chacal Begins Talks in Quilali

PA2408230993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2235 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Quilali, Nicaragua [no date as received] (AFP)—AFP reporters have confirmed that Jose Angel Talavera, leader of the 3-80 Northern Front, which is holding several politicians and soldiers hostage in northern Nicaragua, arrived here on the afternoon on 24 August to meet with a negotiating team headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Talavera was accompanied by his top military staff and arrived at 1700 local time (2200 GMT). He immediately met with the negotiating team, which is also made up of government representatives and members of the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV).

Quilali Talks Delayed

PA2408201993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Quilali, Nicaragua, 24 Aug (AFP)—According to AFP journalists on the scene, talks scheduled here, 300 km from Managua, to free 16 hostages held by the recontras (rearmed contras) have been delayed because of rebel allegations that Army troops have not withdrawn to the prescribed 23 km distance. The talks, in the hands of a mixed commission led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, were supposed to have begun at 1330 (1830 GMT). [passage omitted]

All Conditions Met for Talks

PA2408222493 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 2134 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] We have a press bulletin from the Presidency Press and Information Directorate stating that all obstacles hindering a meeting between El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] and the negotiating commission have been removed. Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta expressed his and the government's confidence in Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the International Commission of Support and Verification, and the other members of the negotiating commission, who are cooperating for a final outcome to the kidnappings in Managua and northern Nicaragua.

The note says that the government has met all of El Chacal's demands for beginning the talks. They are only waiting for him to arrive to carry out the negotiations. This is the last-minute report received here at 1530 this afternoon. El Chacal had demanded that the Army withdraw 9 km from the perimeter of Quilali. We think, therefore, that it is possible that the meeting between the government negotiating commission [five-second break in reception] El Chacal and it is possible the meeting may be taking place at this time.

Army Withdrawal Condition for Talks

PA2408164793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1553 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Quilali, Managua, 24 Aug (AFP)—This morning, Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops began to leave Quilali, 300 km north of Managua, where this afternoon negotiations will begin to end the hostage crisis in Nicaragua, AFP reporters have confirmed. The troops, that had been deployed in this peasant town of some 5,000 people, began to leave the area, a condition set by Jose Angel Talavera (El Chacal), the chief of the 380 Northern Front, before he would sit down and talk to the mediation delegation led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. [passage omitted]

There were at least two EPS companies in Quilali, located in a mountainous region, about 20 km from El Zungano, where since El Chacal has been holding 16 hostages, including members of the Army, Sandinist officials, and deputies since last Thursday. [passage omitted]

Cardinal Obando y Bravo leads a mediation commission that also includes Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, representatvies of political parties, and Argentine Sergio Caramagna, representative of the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV-OAS).

El Chacal, who reportedly has some 800 men throughout northern Nicaragua, will go to Quilali with his General Staff, while his troops will remain at El Zungano, guarding the hostages that include Sandinist deputies

Carlos Gallo and Doris Tijerino, the former director of the Sandinist Police, as well as two high-ranking military officers. [passage omitted]

CIAV sources are trying to verify the withdrawal of the government troops from Murra, El Jicaro, and Las Luces, villages close to El Zungano.

Sandinist soldiers are packing up their tents and dismantling the radio communications equipment, loading them in military vehicles, and preparing to leave the area. [passage omitted]

Radio Ya Updates Esteli Situation 0312 GMT

PA2508050593 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0312 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Interview with Esteli correspondent Isidora Acuna by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Acuna] We have a report from sources close to El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], who have been granted access to the meeting site. We have learned that talks between the government commission, led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the 3-80 Northern Front's staff continue on a positive note. Certain sources report that there is talk of the possible release of all Special Disarmament Brigade [BED] members and government officials still being held hostage, including Carlos (?Guillen), an official of the National Institute for Agrarian Reform [INRA]; Augusto Puerta, an official of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry; and Dr. Nora Arguello, an official of the Social Action Ministry.

Nevertheless, it is reported that the two commanders of the BED staff, Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Ernesto Sosa and Major Ivan Portocarrero, as well as Sandinist Deputies Doris Tijerino and Carlos Gallo, will not be released as long as the government does not agree to fulfill 3-80 Northern Front's demands regarding the dismissal of General Humberto Ortega, Antonio Lacayo, and Lenin Cerna.

We have not had access to information about the meeting because reporters have not been allowed near. However, we have been able to talk with relatives or people close to El Chacal. They have confirmed that approximately 150 persons are gathered in the park waiting for the results of the meeting. They are [words indistinct] with El Chacal and have stated that if the meetings fail, that is, if El Chacal's demands are not met, it could lead to an armed conflict and they are prepared to support him.

Reliable sources have confirmed that most of the men around the park are armed with guns and have more weapons in their homes. We have also been told that a recent report of 800 men is correct. People close to El Chacal confirmed that 800 armed men are around Quilali awaiting the results of the meeting. They are waiting for any attack or threat from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. It was also learned that some EPS troops were recently seen near Quilali, but the information has not been confirmed.

The information we have gathered indicates that, based on the progress achieved in the meeting, three government officials and the BED members could be released tomorrow. This does not apply to Lt. Col. Ramon Ernesto Sosa and Maj. Julian Portocarrero. We have also learned that El Chacal has maintained his position throughout the meeting, which began at 1700 [2200 GMT]. In other words, he will continue to exert pressure on the government in connection with the dismissal of Gen. Ortega, Engineer Lacayo, and Lenin Cerna. That is what we have to report so far. We will remain in contact and will provide further details following the conclusion of the meeting, which might end around 0000 or 0100.

[Announcer] Isidora, we have received calls from Esteli stating that the number of armed people led by Marcial entering the country is 80 rather than 800. We have also been told that recalcitrant right-wing groups in the United States have confirmed that a commando coming from Honduras is reportedly entering the mountains of Nicaragua to support the 3-80 Northern Front. That was stated by Deborah De Moss. She confirmed that recontra forces, that is, a special commando, is being organized in Honduras to approach the sector where El Chacal is located. What do the people, the Army, or the police there know about this?

[Acuna] I believe the information is correct, that is, it is not 80 men. There are reports that approximately 800 men are coming from Honduran territory. That was the information we had as of 2000, but a source close to El Chacal personally confirmed to me that there is another group of 500 men coming from other regions to support El Chacal in case the meeting fails. It is appropriate to mention that the same source said that in the case the talks fail, that is, if El Chacal's demands are not met, the commission, led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, could also be held hostage in Quilali. That is what I was told. The report talks about 800 men.

It is also appropriate to mention that Indalecio Rodriguez, a former member of the Nicaraguan Resistance directorate, is also participating in the meeting. He was in Honduran territory and was brought to Quilali by the International Commission of Support and Verification. Everything seems to indicate that he is a close associate of the 3-80 Northern Front and is in charge of some [word indistinct] abroad. That is the information we have and I believe it coincides with the information received from the United States and other countries.

[Announcer] Referring to the commissions and the talks, are El Chacal and his men unarmed?

[Acuna] Yes. El Chacal and his brother, Salvador, are participating in the talks. A large number of 3-80 Northern Front members can be seen around the park. They are practically unarmed because they are not carrying rifles and no weapons are visible. Nevertheless, it has been confirmed that each one is carrying two

grenades. That is what we have learned. While El Chacal has forces that support him, there are other groups, who [words indistinct] with the Nicaraguan Resistance and certain businessmen in Quilali expect positive results from the talks because they do not want a war. They want to work in peace. They have said they are fed up with the war and bloodshed that has occurred since armed groups returned, particularly El Chacal, who is being held responsible for the ambushes and crimes perpetrated in Region 1, particularly in Quilali, and Region 6.

Nicaraguan Group Wants Spain To Mediate

PA2508033293 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Tegucigalpa correspondent Carlos Rivas]

[Text] General Luis Alonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, announced the mobilization of more than 3,000 soldiers to patrol the border with Nicaragua and said the troops are in a state of alert given the return of violence in that neighboring country. The Honduran soldiers' mission is to prevent Nicaraguan rebels from entering Honduran territory.

We also have a last minute report: The Nicaraguan Resistance 3- 80 Command has sent a communique to the "This Very Day" newscast addressed to me. Commander Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal, has requested that talks be held to find the appropriate conditions. He proposes that the talks be held under the auspices of the Spanish Government, led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The commando demands include reforms in the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and Nicaraguan security agencies, the reorganization of the Sandinist Police, the reorganization of the judicial branch, an overall solution to the private property ownership problem, and a conclusive investigation of the murders of Nicaraguan Resistance leaders and other opposition leaders. The communique concludes: We publicly ask the Nicaraguan Government to promise to prevent any EPS action that endangers the people's lives.

800 Recontras Reportedly Heading Toward El Zungano

PA2508014393 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0032 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Isidora Acuna from Quilali—live]

[Text] As we know, with [word indistinct] hours of delay, talks were initiated today at 1700 between the government commission and the 3-80 Northern Front Command. Although the negotiations have been going on for several hours now, reporters have no information on the progress [words indistinct], the security cordon set up by recontras, the police, and officials of the International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV] to restrict access to the area where the talks are being held.

Talks are being held among 12 members of the 3-80 Northern Front general staff, including a brother of El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] called Salvador. Meanwhile, another of El Chacal's brothers called [name indistinct] is in charge of the group and the hostages in El Zungano. [Words indistinct] a Sandinist deputy being held by the 3-80 Front are requesting that [words indistinct] in the talks, a delegate of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, and a CIAV-OAS official.

Another recontra known as (?Marcial) is approaching El Zungano from Honduran territory leading 800 men with orders to defend [words indistinct] in case of an attack against that force by the Sandinist People's Army.

EPS Reports 80 Men On Way To Quilali

PA2508021193 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0111 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Reports in Managua indicate a contingent of 200 National Police members are en route to the National Opposition Union [UNO] headquarters. We also have a report from Elisa Cespedes in Esteli. Come in, Elisa.

[Cespedes] It is reported that the sources from the 1st Command of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] have corrected information supplied by Isidora Acuna. The EPS sources said Commander Marcial and El Charro are moving with a group of 80 men between Cerro Chachagua and Chachaguito. The EPS even confirmed that Marcial and El Charro met with El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] yesterday to discuss today's meeting.

There were disagreements between Marcial and El Chacal concerning the agreements reached by El Chacal and the mediation commission on 22 August. In other words, Marcial does not agree that El Chacal should release the hostages.

It was also confirmed that the recent ambush in Zompopera was perpetrated by Marcial's men, who were in Region 6 and are now moving toward Cerro Chachagua and Chachaguita. El Chacal met with Marcial and El Charro at Cerro Chachagua.

Sandino Front To Protect Commando Members' Families

PA2508025193 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0107 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Omar Garcia]

[Excerpts] Very little has transpired at the National Opposition Union [UNO] Political Council building since talks with the Managua commission ended. Commander Daniel Ortega is expected to visit the office to report on the progress of the talks in Quilali.

We have another communique from the Sandino Internal Front. The Front used the telephone here to tell reporters of their latest measures regarding the ongoing events in the country. They spoke of implementing a new plan to protect the families of Commando members.

This Communique No. 4 specifically states that they will implement a security plan within the next 72 hours to protect the families of Commando members. On the morning of 24 August, Commando 31 said there had been threats against the homes of all the members of this group, known as Commando 40 for Dignity and Sovereignty. [passage omitted]

As I was saying, Communique No. 4 addresses the poor progress of the talks in the north, because El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] had not arrived. As we understand it, the meeting began about two hours and 15 minutes ago, but there are no details as of yet. We are standing by for further developments.

Dignity Command Demands on 3-80 Front, UNO, U.S.

PA2408195993 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1810 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Communique from the "Sovereignty and Dignity Command" issued in Managua on 22 August read by Commander 40 at National Opposition Union headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] In light of the difficult situation the nation is currently facing as a result of actions carried out by those who have encouraged war and instability in Nicaragua; in view of the imminent danger [four-second break in reception] democracy and safety for Nicaraguans that we are gradually building; and in order to contribute to the future development of our nation, the members of the Sovereignty and Dignity Command demand:

1. The unconditional and immediate release of all hostages by the 3-80 Front.

2. The U.S. Congress stop threatening to implement an economic blockade [four-second break in reception] of the United States [four-second break in reception] Congressman Helms.

4. [number as heard] The U.S. Government pay the Nicaraguan people the indemnification ordered by The Hague International Court of Justice in its ruling for the brutal attacks on Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990.

5. The Nicaraguan Government, the National Opposition Union, UNO, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the church, and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, sign durable agreements to maintain peace in Nicaragua for years.

6. The International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS Commission verify compliance of agreements signed between the government and former members of the Sandinist People's Army, the Government Ministry, Nicaraguan Resistance, recompas, revueltos [group of recontras and recompasa], and the Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front.

7. We urge forces, who were ready to disarm themselves in the enclaves, to refrain from doing so until El Chacal and members of his 3-80 Northern Front enter those enclaves.

8. We demand the simultaneous disarmament of the 3-80 Northern Front and other dignified Nicaraguan forces.

9. That COSEP capitalists demand the release of hostages being held by the 3-80 Northern Front and support agreements, which will guarantee permanent peace in Nicaragua.

10. That agreements be signed no later than 1 September 1993 to guarantee peace in Nicaragua.

[Dated] 22 August 1993 in Managua at the installations of the UNO Political Council

[Signed] Sovereignty and Dignity Command

More Demands

PA2408211093 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1813 GMT 24 Aug 93

["Annex" to 23 August communique on demands issued by the Dignity and Sovereignty Command in Managua, read by Commander 40 at National Opposition Union headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] Since 1991, when the National Opposition Union, UNO, government won the elections and the Sandinist National Liberation Front transferred power, the Army has reduced the number of its troops. Today, the Armed Forces have less than (?30,000). More than 6,000 officers have retired, are unemployed and are facing hunger and misery. These cases are known as the PL-1, PL-2, and PL-3 special plans. There are officers who have retired without any benefits, without plan zero for officers, who left their units without anything.

In view of this situation, we demand from the government, as part of the negotiations, that these cases be reviewed by the National Coordinating Board of Retired Soldiers created yesterday in Chinandega.

This Coordinating Board, which will issue a communique giving the names of its representatives, has been founded and based on the history and [word indistinct] of the situation of war veterans in Nicaragua, the Association of Retired Government Ministry workers.

We also have taken into consideration the problems affecting the recompas, revueltos [group of recompas and recontras], the [word indistinct], and the demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance members. We also included the deceived members of the 3-80 Northern Front, who are peasants who have been deceived and are being led into an unnecessary war.

All this means that if only 35 percent of the agreements have been complied with, we will try to expedite compliance.

[Dated] Managua, 23 August 1993

[Signed] National Dignity and Sovereignty Command

U.S. Reparations Demand

PA2408232093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2231 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A spokesman for the Sandinist commando holding 23 hostages in Managua explained today that the request for U.S. indemnification to Nicaragua is only a political demand that will not jeopardize the hostages' release.

The commando today published a list of petitions that includes demands for $17.5 billion—not $17.5 million as was initially reported—and that the United States not withhold economic aid to Nicaragua.

The kidnappers, who released two hostages today but seized two reporters shortly afterwards, also insisted that the group of recontras, who have 15 hostages in the northern mountains of Quilali, must release their hostages.

Commander 31 Summarizes Hostage Situation Causes

PA2408191393 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1655 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Statement by Commander 31, leader of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command holding hostages at National Opposition Union (UNO) headquarters in Managua, to reporters inside the UNO building—live or recorded]

[Text] We want things to be public. We do not like secrets. Before starting, we want to clear up several things that have been published. First, we want to explain that [three-second break in transmission] We want to clean up the image of members who are here.

First, I blame the government of Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro for what may happen in terms of the lives of innocent people [words indistinct] irresponsible actions by Alfredo Mendieta, who are inside the institution. First, we want to explain that this operation was planned by a group of patriotic, nationalist, and revolutionary Nicaraguans, who are followers of Sandino. We are followers of the generals of free men, Augusto Cesar Sandino and Benjamin Zeledon. We are unhappy with the irresponsible statements published in LA PRENSA's editorial of 23 August.

Second, there are workers, there are merchants, and there are rural workers here, just so you all know. I am the only one here who has gone through a military academy. [30-second break in transmission]

I want you to know that just as a security display has been given to El Chacal. [sentence as heard] I have seen how the vehicles are moving down the road. This same kind of display should be given to the recompas when they are forced to move to different places. I hold responsible for anything that may happen [10-second break in transmission].

This problem did not come about because of the kidnapping of Doris Tijerino, a legendary guerrilla leader who was raped by Somozist guardsmen. Now she is in the hands of El Chacal, the criminal. That did not create the problem; her kidnapping was just the spark that ignited the problem in this situation. The problem derives from a lack of trust in this government, even though many honest Nicaraguans, such as Daniel Ortega, have called on the government to [words indistinct]. The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has been issuing calls for peace, but this government does not represent the feelings of the Nicaraguan people. There is a lack of trust in the government.

The National Assembly is not a bulwark in the defense of the people's interest. Instead, it is a political boxing ring. Here, Mrs. Violeta Chamorro does not speak to Mr. Virgilio Godoy, who is the vice president of Nicaragua and should be recognized as such.

[Words indistinct] the operation is aimed against the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, which along with ultraright groups, who are evil Nicaraguans and evil sons of this fatherland, planned the kidnapping because they thought the [words indistinct] would make the government surrender, because they support El Chacal. They want Humberto Ortega to leave, and they want Antonio Lacayo to leave, but this is all secondary in nature. Will the country's problems be resolved if Humberto Ortega Saavedra leaves? Are there not enough colonels there who could replace him with sufficient nationalist morals? The dismissal of General Humberto Ortega is secondary. Antonio Lacayo's problem is secondary. The problem here is the dignity of the nation, which is in danger.

I believe it is important for me to start clearing things up. We, the Dignity and Sovereignty Command, [words indistinct]. It is regrettable that Mrs. Violeta Chamorro has not even called to ask about the vice president's health. She is my president and he is my vice president, and all of us must accept this as Nicaraguans with dignity.

I want you to know that this action has not been dictated by the FSLN or anyone else. No one is behind me. I assume responsibility before history and before all Nicaraguans. If they are going to try me for this, I know the poor will not attack me and that they will come up with money to free me from prison in the event you bring me before the courts and sentence me. I have assumed a position of [word indistinct], but before giving you our viewpoints, we want you to tell us how the talks are going.

Esteli Sandinists Threaten Northern Kidnappers

PA2408172593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Quilali, Nicaragua, 24 Aug (AFP)—Today in a communique, an unidentified group of militants of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in Quilali, 300 km north of Managua, threatened to take up arms against groups of former contra guerrillas (recontras), who kidnapped 16 officials and soldiers last Thursday. The threat was made in a communique distributed today among journalists, who traveled to Quilali to cover talks scheduled for this afternoon between leaders of the 3-80 Northern Front [FN-3-80] (recontras) and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, mediator in the hostage crisis.

FN-3-80 Military Chief Jose Angel Talavera (El Chacal) demanded the departure of Sandinist Army troops from Quilali as a condition for starting negotiations. Sandinist troops in fact left Quilali this morning.

The communique issued by the "Esteli Sandinist Front" was distributed after the troops had left. It states that "should the Sandinist troops withdraw we will have no option but to take up arms against El Chacal in the same place we did during the war" of the past decade. The group claimed El Chacal requested the departure of government troops with "the intention of seizing land" in the area and "removing Quilali authorities and replacing them with FN-3-80 personnel."

Quilali is a peasant town of about 5,000 inhabitants 20 km from El Zungano, where El Chacal has his main operations base and where the kidnapped are being held.

In retaliation, a group of former Sandinist soldiers kidnapped about 30 people, including Vice President Virgilio Godoy and other leaders of the National Opposition Union, in Managua last Friday.

Hostage Denies Contacts With El Chacal

PA2408191293 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1627 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Interview with hostage Alfredo Cesar by Omar Garcia at the National Opposition Union headquarters in Managua on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] [Cesar] Drs. Duilio Baltodano, [name indistinct] and I have been talking this morning about [words indistinct] to resolve this situation.

[Garcia] How is this (?internal) commission dealing with communication? Are you in touch with those who were released? How are you learning about efforts being carried out on the outside?

[Cesar] We have been allowed to make telephone calls, we (?have maintained) contact with UNO leaders outside the building and through telephone calls we have remained abreast of their efforts and they, of ours. [Words indistinct] as I said, was for the purpose of getting Cardinal Obando to participate in the effort. We are now awaiting the results of the negotiation.

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] regarding the situation at this time, the formation of the commission and the talks you have held with the chief of the comando.

[Cesar] I cannot express opinions now about political issues. I hope that in fact all forces in the country will prepare to remove the stumbling blocks in our way. I believe that was the term used in the document signed by Mrs. Chamorro late on the evening of 21 August. We must remove stumbling blocks to normalize the country's institutional life. It is obvious that the National Assembly is one of those stumbling blocks.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to flatly deny reports that have appeared in some news media to the effect that I met with El Chacal in Esteli 10 days ago. That is absolutely and totally false. It is absolutely irresponsible to level such accusations. I do not know Mr. Talavera, I have never met him, I have never met with him, and I have never contacted any of his lieutenants. Therefore, the report that I met with Mr. Talavera is totally false.

[Garcia] Engineer Cesar was referring to a report on this alleged meeting that was published in this morning's newspapers.

[Cesar] As I was saying, those of us, who are still here, are in good health. Those who had difficulties have been released. Our spirits are high and basically we are trying to contribute [three-second break in reception] will conclude promptly and [two-second break in reception] tragic results [eleven-second break in reception] between one visit and the other [four-second break in reception] and to continue administering medicine to those who need it. [Words indistinct] need medicine but [words indistinct]. [22-second break in reception] [words indistinct]. We have been allowed, sometimes rather frequently, to call our families in the presence of the commando chiefs. We have basically informed our wives and children that we are fine. We have also been receiving packages regularly. We take advantage of visits by the human rights organizations, which are working together. They bring us clothes and other personal items, which we have been receiving regularly.

Hostages Demand Release of UNO Political Council

PA2408170593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 5

[Message issued by the 38 hostages in El Zungano, Quilali Jurisdiction, Las Segovias, on 22 August]

[Text] To the people of Nicaragua:

The 38 hostages, who came to Quilali on a peace mission in an effort to promote alternatives for the disarmament and return to civilian life of the 3-80 Front rebels, hereby

express our feelings as citizens stripped of our freedoms and rights, while also remaining interested in contributing to the cause of stability and understanding for a national solution.

1. Despite the difficult conditions we are facing, and despite our awareness of the pain and uncertainty experienced by our relatives and friends, this suffering should contribute to the just cause of peace, reconstruction of the fatherland, and the task of achieving national accord for the future of Nicaragua by means of a sincere dialogue.

2. We support the commitments made by the National Opposition Union [UNO], the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the government of the Republic to remove all obstacles that are preventing the normalization of the nation's institutional, economic, and social life. This commitment should be honored by means of immediate and effective decisions, which can contribute to the strengthening of our institutions in an effort to resolve our differences, thereby prevailing over the culture of violence that has been imposed on our country for centuries.

3. We call on the government of the Republic, political parties, and associations to continue striving to reach a national understanding that can lead, within the next few days, to the drafting of an agenda that includes the most significant problems of our country.

The discussion of an agenda for a national agreement should be done with political realism and with the understanding that the crisis we are experiencing must not be postponed any longer. Without exception, everyone has a responsibility in our country's crisis. Nicaragua must come out ahead with the participation of all, regardless of party affiliation.

4. We deeply thank the solidarity expressed by the different sectors of the country, the national and international human rights organizations, and the media that have contributed to the creation of a national demand for an end to the violence and intolerance; the demand to release all of the hostages in Quilali and Managua.

We, here in the mountains, demand the release of the UNO Political Council. No one has the right to demand freedom by taking other Nicaraguans hostage. No one has the right to demand political reform in the country by kidnapping representatives of state institutions in disregard of laws and civic methods.

5. The members of the Human Rights and Peace Commission of the National Assembly, deputy ministers, government officials, and the leaders and representatives of the various sectors of the Special Disarmament Brigade demand that the 3-80 Northern Front immediately release all of its hostages.

We call on the government of the Republic to continue making every necessary effort to find a peaceful solution to the problem, to honor the agreements reached with the "3-80 Northern Front" for the suspension of military operations, and to continue to promote the negotiation process, thereby avoiding fatal outcomes that would only bring pain and tragedy to Nicaragua.

We hope reason, humanitarian considerations, and the law will prevail in our fatherland.

Northern Hostages Demand Release of Managua Hostages

PA2408154093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1502 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the 15 hostages, who are being held by a group of recontras in the Quilali mountains in northern Nicaragua, demanded the release of 23 hostages being held in Managua by a pro-Sandinist commando group. Among the hostages being held by the recontras are two Sandinist deputies and several officers and officials of that political group, but they favor of the release of the kidnapped National Opposition Unity (UNO) leadership, the political rivals of the Sandinists.

"We demand the release of the UNO Political Council because there is no reason whatsoever for demanding freedom by depriving other Nicaraguans of their freedoms," say the hostages in a declaration issued in El Zungano hill near Quilali, 280 km north of Managua. The communique, disseminated by some members of the media, also urges the government of Violeta Chamorro to continue "every effort to attain a peaceful solution" to the hostage crisis.

Meanhile, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo left for the Quilali mountains to try to convince El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] to release his hostages, which would in turn allow the pro-Sandinist group to end the kidnapping situation.

Recontras Reportedly Organizing Attack on Radio Ya

PA2508015893 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0048 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] We issue an alert to the citizenry, the people, and the Police. We have received reports from the 3-80 neighborhood, where obviously only former Nicaraguan Resistance members or those who can easily be termed recontras live. They will unearth their hardware and come attack this radio station causing heavy damage and worsening the station if Mrs. Violeta Chamorro does not settle the situation in Managua.

According to our sources, Commander Leonel and five other commanders gathered with residents of the 3-80 neighborhood to prepare plans and organize commandos to destroy this radio station if Mrs. Chamorro does not settle the situation tonight. There will be problems in the capital tomorrow if that does not happen.

They will also exert psychological pressure on Donald Mendoza's [head of the Dignity and Sovereignty Commando Unit] family. They will come to this sector and....[pauses] They are apparently supported by a government group interested in exerting psychological pressure on the relatives of the commando members, who are at the National Opposition Union [UNO] headquarters. We issue this alert to prevent any dangerous situation that may arise for the radio station and for the relatives of those of us who work here. Remember, the situation is slowly improving and we hope it will be solved soon.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has been in a meeting with El Chacal's people in Quilali since 1700. We hope that the difficult situation the Nicaraguan people currently face will not deteriorate. That is why we are alerting the government, above all the Government Ministry, which has some control over Commander Leonel of the recontra group, which has gathered in the 3-80 neighborhood.

Commander Leonel has met with five commanders and they will organize special commandos to attack the homes of relatives of the commando group currently at the UNO headquarters and Radio Ya, which would be the first target. We alert the Nicaraguan Government to this situation so it can immediately adopt the pertinent measures to prevent this difficult situation.

We are a means of communication. Ours was the first station to report the UNO Political Council's kidnapping and we also broadcast the hostages' voices so you would know who was being held. That action helped everyone to seek an alternative to the situation.

It is reported that those who gathered with Commander Leonel at the 3-80 neighborhood belong to the Nicaraguan Resistance Party. We do not think the situation can be settled with weapons. We are sitting on a powder keg and everyone would lose. The important think is to talk. If the elections come....[pauses] Better to wait for the 1996 elections and see who wins. The idea is to respect other people's ideologies and solve things as it should be done, as men do it, face to face talking things over.

Freed Hostage Suggests Government-FSLN 'Complicity'

PA2408183593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1645 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Managua, 24 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Today, Guillermo Selva, magistrate of the Supreme Electoral Council, denounced alleged "complicity" between the government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in the assault on the headquarters of the National Opposition Union (UNO) in Managua.

Magistrate Selva was freed on 23 August by the commando unit comprising former Sandinists, who have held the main leaders of UNO hostage since 20 August. Vice President Virgilio Godoy and former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar are still being held.

Selva based his serious charge on the assumption that it is "absurd" to believe that an assault within the capital launched by heavily armed former Sandinist soldiers could go undetected. "It is absurd that it (the initial kidnapping of more 30 political leaders on 20 August) was possible without the complicity of the government and the losing party (FSLN)," Selva told local Radio Catolica today. The magistrate and leader of the Liberal Constitutionalist Party, one of 10 parties that comprised the former UNO ruling alliance, was among three politicians the "Dignity and Sovereignty Commando Unit" freed on 23 August. [passage omitted]

Selva criticized the "little or no interest" shown by the government following the kidnapping on 20 August, about 24 hours after an official commission was kidnapped by a group of "recontras" in northern Nicaragua.

Selva said the government showed "little or no interest for the UNO hostages, but showed great interest for the hostages in northern Nicaragua," although Vice President Godoy was among those kidnapped by the Sandinist commando unit. Godoy opposes the government.

After his dramatic experience, Selva said, "the government cares little about the fate of those who brought it to power," referring to the politicians who made Chamorro's victory possible more than three years ago but then distanced themselves from her later. The magistrate denied the existence of any "symmetry" or link between the conservative political alliance and the kidnapping of officials, soldiers, and two deputies of the FSLN in northern Nicaragua.

Guillermo Potoy, former comptroller general and president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), denied reports of an alleged meeting between "3-80 Northern Front" leader Jose Angel Talavera (El Chacal) and PSD Secretary General Alfredo Cesar prior to the kidnapping. Potoy denied links between opposition politicians and the rearmed contras operating in the mountains of northern Nicaragua, although the demands they have made of the Chamorro government are very similar. [passage omitted]

President Chamorro To Travel to Mexico 25 Aug

PA2408212493 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 2045 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro will leave for Mexico on 25 August. She will hold a working meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. While in Mexico, President Chamorro will sign several cooperation agreements with Mexico. President Chamorro will be accompanied by Dr. Jose Adan Guerra, Deputy Minister of the Presidency, and Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal. President Chamorro will issue a statement at the international airport at 0930 tomorrow, before departing.

[In a related 100-word Managua-datelined report, Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2003 GMT says

Chamorro's official visit to Mexico remains indefinitely postponed. The report adds: "The private visit will last only a few hours." During her 25 August visit, NOTIMEX says Chamorro and Salinas will discuss bilateral and regional issues, including the current situation in Nicaragua.]

Panama

Agricultural Development Minister Resigns

PA2408161493 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Aug 93 p A1

[Report by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] On 18 August, Agricultural Development Minister Cesar Pereira Burgos tendered his resignation to the executive because he hopes to represent the Authentic Liberal Party on the presidential ballot in the 1994 elections, the minister told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA.

"I hope to be a member of the presidential slate in 1994, and I am ready to explain my reasons for this aspiration," the agricultural development minister said. Pereira's resignation will take effect on 30 October, when the vacation he requested two weeks ago is due to expire.

In a letter addressed to President Guillermo Endara, Pereira stated, "the 30 percent of Panamanians, who are not members of any political party, should know by now the names of those Panamanians hoping to run for office."

The high-ranking government official is the first member of the Endara cabinet to present his resignation to participate in the political campaign. It was learned unofficially, however, that more government officials will resign in October for the same reason.

Pereira expressed in his letter that the only "valid reasons to remain until 30 October" as head of the Agricultural Development Ministry were the presentation of the budget bill, the adjudication of contracts for irrigation projects, and the reorganization of the Agriculture National Institute.

Argentina

Czech Deputy To Strengthen Argentine Relations

AU2408123693 Prague CTK in English 2119 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, August 20 (CTK)—Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Alexandr Vondra conveyed the Czech Republic's interest in strengthening cooperation with Argentina at his talks here today with top Argentinian Foreign Ministry officials, the Czech representative office here told CTK.

Vondra heads a Czech delegation which is making a tour of Latin America. Argentina is currently the biggest trade partner of the Czech Republic in Latin America.

Representatives of both countries confirmed at the talks the need to conclude a Czech-Argentinian agreement on investment protection as well as on cooperation on the international scene, mainly in the United Nations. Both Argentina and the Czech Republic are candidates for nonpermanent membership of the U.N. Security Council for 1994-95 and support each other.

Vondra handed over to Argentinian Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella a message from Czech President Vaclav Havel to Argentina's President Carlos Menem.

He also met with top officials of the Argentinian Chamber of Commerce and delivered a lecture on developments in the Czech Republic and Europe in the Argentinian Committee for Foreign Relations.

The Czech delegation ended its visit to Argentina today and left for Uruguay.

UCR: Minister's Resignation Means Corruption Won

PY2408161493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0039 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (NA)—Radical Civic Union [UCR] leaders tonight agreed that President Carlos Menem "chose corruption" when accepting Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz's resignation.

UCR National Committee members Enrique Mathov and Horacio Jaunarena, Capital Committee President Felipe Figueredo, and San Isidro Mayor Melchor Posse hurried to make negative evaluations of the government's future.

"In dismissing one of the officials who represented the staunchest fight against corruption, the government shows interest in power for power's sake in a frantic race for the presidential reelection," the Buenos Aires UCR leaders warned.

Posse said: "Menem preferred to listen to scandal mongers and mediocre people because only they are willing to follow him in an irresponsible adventure that attempts to fracture Argentine society."

Enrique Mathov said the situation "confirms that Menem is capable of anything."

Mathov, who is a member of the UCR National Committee's executive board, said: "Beliz reported in a note that there are government groups who will do anything to stay in power, and the government dismisses the person who made the report instead of trying to clarify things."

"The state of insecurity will increase with Beliz' resignation and institutions will remain submissive to President Carlos Menem's personal whims," the UCR leader said.

Army Commander Announces Troop Reduction

PY2508011493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1926 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (NA)—Army Commander Lieutenant General Martin Balza today announced a 15-percent reduction in the Army cadres in the medium term. He said he is "waiting for the approval" of the 1994 budget proposal, which has been submitted to Defense Minister Oscar Camilion.

Balza added that British pressure to prevent the sale of the U.S. A4-M "Skyhawk" aircraft to the Argentine Air Force "is a matter for political analysis."

"It is not prudent for a chief of staff to assess this matter," he said.

Balza said that the wave of violence which affects society is "out of his jurisdiction," adding that it is the "responsibility of the police and security forces."

The Army commander spoke at the end of the ceremony at the Libertador building when the Belgrano Institute decorated him with the "Belgrano Cross" of merit.

He also confirmed that the fourth contingent of Argentine "Blue Helmets" of the Argentine Army Battalion (BEA), which is deployed in the former Yugoslavia, will leave for the Balkan zone in September.

Balza added that 363 troops from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, are ready to leave for Cyprus as members of the UN peace force in that conflictive zone of the Mediterranean Sea.

Concerning the Army budget, he said that "talks continue" with Defense Minister Oscar Camilion and that he is "awaiting approval of our proposal," although he declined to provide further details.

Moreover, he said Argentina "has no problems" like those encountered by Brazil over the militarization of the Amazon region.

"The situation in a given country is not transferable to another nation," he said.

In conclusion, Balza said that "patrimonial assets" of the Army which "have no operational use will be sold" in the short term and "the money will be used to build houses" for the troops.

Bolivia

President Sanchez Expresses Willingness To Visit Chile

PY2408171793 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said last night that he is ready to travel to Santiago for the Rio Group member countries summit scheduled for October.

"The president's presence at the Santiago Summit is necessary. This will be possible if Congress agrees because it is very difficult to visit someone's home and not talk with the host," Sanchez said, referring to his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin.

Sanchez told PRESENCIA the issue "must be defined through diplomatic channels and if the two countries deem it convenient."

Sanchez de Lozada said the matter is in the hands of Congress. If Congress accepts, it will be the first time a Bolivian president has traveled to Santiago since the 1879 war that resulted in Bolivia's loss of its sea outlet.

During his first meeting with the press, the president said his administration agrees with the negotiations on economic matters currently under way with Chile and that relations now are "friendlier." Sanchez criticized former President Jaime Paz Zamora's sharp remarks that cooled down the climate of present negotiations with Chile. These negotiations include a resumption of diplomatic relations and the sea outlet problem, one of the main items in Bolivia's foreign policy.

Sanchez de Lozada said the strategy to follow will originate in a national consensus.

"We will consult with people in the interior of the country. Once we establish a criteria we will follow a long-term policy. People understand each other by talking," Sanchez said, adding that his next step in this area will be to meet with the foreign minister.

Bolivia and Chile have not maintained diplomatic relations since 1978 after Presidents Hugo Banzer's and Augusto Pinochet's failure to agree on a solution to the sea outlet problem.

In the past four years the two countries' bilateral economic relations have improved substantially since the signing of an Agreement for Economic Cooperation in Santa Cruz in April 1993.

The Roads to Rome

"There are may roads leading to Rome," the president said, referring to the agreement signed with Peru granting Bolivia a sea outlet. Negotiations will continue with President Alberto Fujimori, with whom Sanchez de Lozada has scheduled a meeting. The date of the meeting, however, has not been set yet.

Drug Trafficking

Sanchez de Lozada stressed that Bolivia is the Andean country that has achieved the most in its fight against drug trafficking. As examples the president mentioned Bolivia's achievements in the areas of interdiction as well as in the areas of reduction of cultivated areas and coca nurseries.

Andean Group

Regarding integration projects, the president said that Andean Pact member countries could reduce their common foreign tariff to zero gradually. As an example, he said, we could reduce tariffs by one point every six months and achieve a zero tariff rate in five years.

Capitalization

Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] is one of the first state companies that might be capitalized due to foreign capital's interest in the area of telecommunications, the president announced. The money will be invested in social development projects, education, and health.

Sanchez said social security and education are his administration's "two big concerns," adding that the two issues will be studied in depth.

Cuts in VAT [value-added tax]

The president announced that the VAT will be reduced from 13 percent to 10 percent during his administration. The 10-percent goal will be reached in 1997.

Labor Agreement

Sanchez de Lozada's government will attempt to reach a tripartite agreement with unions and the private sector.

The president said during the commemoration of Armed Forces Day that his government will respect the military hierarchy and the role assigned to it by the Constitution.

"We will do our utmost to keep that institution free of political interferences, favoritism, and partisan politics. If we did not do this we would not be doing our duty to the fatherland," Sanchez stressed.

The president said the Armed Forces are the protectors of democracy and the guarantors of the state's security. "We could not possibly keep the house standing if we destroy the foundation. The Armed Forces are essential institutions born with the fatherland and they will not stop existing for as long as the fatherland exists. We need

to strengthen it. But for this to be possible we must strengthen the country," Sanchez added.

Development Minister Gives Export Promotion Priority

PY2408183393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Report by Mabel Azcui]

[Text] La Paz, 23 Aug (EFE)—Economic Development Minister Fernando Illanes told EFE today that massive exports of "light, semi-processed manufactured products," the implementation of a road network, and the "capitalization" of public enterprises represent the new Bolivian Government's basic goals.

Minister Illanes, who took over responsibility for six ministries in the former cabinet structure after the Executive Branch reorganization, said priority would be given to the promotion of exports, even though the policies to achieve this goal and the appointment of a person who will be responsible for this sector still have not been determined.

Bolivia's largest trade deficit ever was reported in 1992. The unfavorable trade balance totalled about $500 million. Declining prices and volumes of Bolivia's main exports (natural gas and minerals), the maintenance of a precarious productive sector, and considerable transportation problems are responsible for the deficit.

Illanes, a 61-year-old entrepreneur, believes that exports of light, semi-processed manufactured products by plane "will be increased substantially" if the required conditions and facilities, such as cheap labor, land, and energy, are added to the already existing ones.

Illanes said: "Within a very short period of time, Bolivia can become an exporter of light, semi-processed manufactured products, as it already is doing modestly." As an example, Illanes mentioned flowers, tropical fruits, clothes, fabrics, textiles, and jewelry exports.

In addition to the "light, semi-processed manufactured products," the Bolivian exports spectrum in coming years will include other components such as increased hydrocarbons and hydrocarbon byproducts sales and the supply of electric energy to neighboring countries.

Illanes said: "I dare say that the company that will operate YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] (the state-owned oil company) will export between $300 million and $500 million per year in hydrocarbon products and not only to Brazil, but to Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay."

The economic development minister explained that the National Electric Power Enterprise (ENDE) "will export substantial quantities of electric power because we have great hydroelectric resources."

Bolivia has significant hydroelectric resources, of which less than 5 percent are used, and a huge ability to produce steam-generated power by using natural gas.

Illanes said the short-term goal is to overcome transportation problems and export light, semi-processed manufactured goods by plane with an advantage over "the Asian tigers since, in comparison with them, [markets for us] are one-third closer by plane."

The economic development minister explained that the government intends to implement the Mexican model in order to promote road construction. The state grants a 25- to 30-year [concession] period for the construction and commercial operation of roads and, after the investment has been covered, they are returned to the state.

With an area of more than 1 million square kms of territory, Bolivia is a country based on a west-east main highway system and some branches to the south and the north. The railway system is not connected to the eastern and western networks and its service costs for exporters are high.

Brazil

Council To Implement Amazon Defense System

PY2408150493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca]

[Text] President Itamar Franco yesterday met National Defense Council members at Government House for more than three hours. Those present at the meeting decided to appoint a special minister for the Amazon region, to send a special Federal Police detachment manned and equipped by Armed Forces personnel to the Surucucu region, and to quickly implement the Amazon Region Defense System.

The protection system for the Amazon region will rely on radars and satellites to monitor the whole region. The special minister, who will be appointed by the president of the Republic, will be empowered to oversee the government's actions in the Amazon region and will be a sort of supervisor of the Brazilian Amazon region where law and order prevail. The Federal Police headquarters that will be set up in Surucucu will have the necessary personnel and equipment to capture and take to the courts not only the murderers of the Ianomami Indians who lived on their reservation, but also will be entrusted with the investigation of the deaths of other Indians on the border with Venezuela.

Prosecutor General Aristides Junqueira, who was invited to take part in the National Defense Council meeting, stated that he has no doubt whatsoever that the massacre of Ianomami Indians can be considered genocide and that the culprits must be sent to jail.

Government Bloc Leader Freire Interviewed

PY2408211093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Aug 93 p 3

["Noteworthy passages" of interview with Deputy Roberto Freire, the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, by Jorge Bastos Moreno; place and date not given]

[Text] Brasilia—"Mine is not a rightist government." President Itamar Franco made this categorical statement at the Alvorada Palace on the afternoon of 20 August, to convince Deputy Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [Peoples' Socialist Party for Pernambuco] to continue as government leader in the Chamber of Deputies. Freire had decided to resign because he believed the president's advisers considered him "an obstacle" in the establishment of alliances with conservative political parties. He interpreted the invitation made to him on 19 August by Itamar—which was published in O GLOBO's Swann Column the next day—to become culture minister as a way to remove him from the post of leader of the Chamber of Deputies and thus make room for agreements with the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and even with sectors of the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] headed by Paulo Maluf.

It took Franco 80 minutes to reverse a situation which seemed irreversible: Freire had already informed his party's leadership of his decision. Freire was aware that GLOBO had already confirmation of his resignation as government leader and used it to justify his position.

Itamar said: "Don't let that influence your decision. Let us both tell the media there was a misunderstanding. Let us tell them you tendered your resignation and that I urged you to stay because I never intended to remove you from that post because if I intended to do so I would not need an excuse.

Itamar even refused to read Freire's letter of resignation, which was written on Saturday afternoon at the home of Deputy Sergio Arouca (RJ) [Rio de Janeiro], the acting PPS president.

As he reached into his pocket for the letter, Freire said: "Here are the reasons for my resignation."

Itamar answered: "Tear it up, I don't want to even read it."

To convince Freire to reassume the leadership, Itamar had the support of Mauricio Correa (justice minister), Mauro Durante (secretary general of the presidency), Saulo Moreira (acting health minister), and Pedro Simon, government leader in the Senate, who, speaking from Porto Alegre, urged Freire to reconsider his decision.

Yesterday Franco confirmed Freire's version on the episode:

Itamar said in Minas Gerais: "I extended a sincere invitation to leader Roberto Freire to assume the Culture Ministry because I consider it an important post. He turned the offer down and resigned as government leader. I did not accept his resignation because I need him as a leader. His presence in the government is very important."

Deputy Sergio Arouca regards this incident as closed, asserting that the PPS will continue to support the government regardless of Freire's leadership.

[Bastos] Why did you resign as government leader?

[Freire] Because I sensed that unwise government officials were trying to steer the government along a path that contradicted all President Itamar Franco's democratic efforts, and they regarded me as an obstacle. I interpreted the invitation to become culture minister as a means to remove me from the leadership.

[Bastos] Did you tell the president this?

[Freire] I did. I also told him that the post of leader, in keeping with the work we have done within the Chamber of Deputies, has reached a point where many believe it has acquired an important role in the political leadership of the government. As the scope of the post grew, my performance may have started to bother some people, even though it may have yielded concrete results for the government.

[Bastos] What did the president say?

[Freire] First, he said that his was not a rightist government. I fully agree with this so much so that I accepted the post as government leader. Second, he explained that the invitation to become culture minister was not a way to remove me from the leadership.

[Bastos] Were you satisfied with this answer?

[Freire] Yes. The problem was that some advisers were not convinced that, politically speaking, the government is progressive, that it is a democratic government. Itamar's government is not a conservative government. Could anyone label conservative a government that is changing the country's distribution of private property, that is expropriating large unproductive properties.

[Bastos] Do you think this episode has done you harm or good?

[Freire] Neither. We should pretend it never happened.

[Bastos] This episode reveals that government officials holding key posts think differently. Will you be able to continue working with people who tried to remove you from the leadership, even though you enjoy the president's support?

[Freire] Ah, we must engage in dialogue. We must paralyze those.... [pauses] We must democratically solve our disagreements, bearing in mind we do not serve a conservative government—quite the opposite.

[Bastos] Could it be said that to secure approval for its projects the economic team seeks support from sectors you regard as conservative, and you do not accept this?

[Freire] Support for safeguarding the country's governability must be sought. But this does not mean that sectors that do not share the government's objectives should be sought as political support.

[Bastos] In simple terms, are you talking about the PFL?

[Freire] We are reaching agreements with the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PP [Popular Party], and the PPS over political support for the government.

[Bastos] Not the PFL?

[Freire] The segments of that party that could participate already belong to the government. They are known as "PFL dissidents." The official PFL is politically incompatible with the government.

[Bastos] Is the support to which you refer enough to guarantee the government's stability?

[Freire] Yes it is.

[Bastos] This seems to be your main point of disagreement with Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. How will your relationship with him be now?

[Freire] I hope it will be the same as always. We have always had a good relationship. According to his background, Minister Fernando Henrique should be regarded as one of the symbols of the democratic and progressive profile of Itamar Franco's government.

[Bastos] But your party, the PPS, criticizes the economic team's performance. Does that not bother you?

[Freire] Even through its president, Sergio Arouce, the PPS has always made it clear that its support for the government is not subject to my presence in government. This support does not entail a loss of autonomy or identity. The PPS wants to work with the government. It does not oppose the government, it votes with the government.

World Coffee Producers To Cut Exports 20 Percent

PY2408150793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Text] Coffee producers around the world have decided to set up an association of coffee-producing countries in Brasilia in September. They already have decided that as of 1 October, their coffee exports will be reduced 20 percent.

Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Minister Jose Eduardo de Andrade Vieira stated that the measure will be to producers' advantage and may even benefit consumers too. He said:

[Begin recording] Current trends show that the price of coffee for consumers will not be changed. A sack of coffee used to be marketed at a price ranging between $150 and $200. When the price of coffee plummeted to $50 a sack at the end of last year and the beginning of this one, there was no comparable reduction in the price of coffee for consumers, either for those who like a cup of coffee at a coffee shop or for housewives who buy roast coffee at supermarkets. Hence, one should expect that when coffee prices climb to their traditional levels, they will not affect consumer prices. [end recording]

The minister further stated that those countries represent 80 percent of world coffee producers and negotiations are under way so Asian countries also will join the association.

11 States Sign Debt Refinancing Contract

PY2508012793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Patricia Gomes from the Finance Ministry]

[Text] Eleven states signed with the Federal Government a document of terms of commitment [termo de compromiso] to pay their debts with the federal banks. The document signed today by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Presidency Deputy Secretary General Alexis Stepanenko, and the representatives of 11 states is the first concrete step to refinancing the $20 billion debt the states owe to federal financial institutions. With the refinancing of this debt the economic team has managed to accomplish another of the six points of the government immediate action plan to balance public accounts.

Through this document the repayment period for the states' debts will be extended by 20 years, and beside this, the interest rate of the debts will be recalculated based on the average rate of their original refinancing contracts. The government says that those who honor their commitments will be eligible for collateral to obtain more foreign loans.

Until the definite contract to reschedule the debt is signed, in about 90 days, the states will continue paying their installments. Congress must still approve the definite debt rescheduling contract through a bill. This bill must define the criteria to reschedule the internal debt of the states with the Federal Government.

Economic Team Underestimates 1994 Government Revenues

PY2408222593 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Aug 93 Section 1 p 15

[Article by Brasilia correspondents Sonia Mossri and Ivanir Jose Bo[illegible]]

[Text] Even though Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's team announced an estimated deficit of $32 billion in the 1994 national budget, the deficit could be curtailed to $20 billion. The economic team underestimated government revenues and overestimated federal government spending, and especially the interest it will have to pay to service its domestic debt.

The economic team failed to adapt themselves to the tax collection structure. This led the economists of Cardoso's team to produce a distorted estimate of next year's tax collection. The Finance Ministry had announced that it estimated collections of $85.28 billion in taxes in 1994. The Federal Revenue Secretariat [SRF] and the Social Security Ministry redid their calculations and discovered that the Finance Ministry was off in its reckoning of revenues by more than $5.5 billion, which had been overlooked.

The economic team estimated collecting less money from the IPMF (provisional tax on financial movements), IR (income tax), IPI (tax on manufactured products), and social security contributions. The SRF has already sent to the Budget and Finance Administration an updated reappraisal of government revenues for 1993, and estimates of next year's revenues, which were calculated taking this year's revenues as reference.

The SRF contends that tax receipts from the IPMF will amount to some $7.21 billion in 1994, while the estimate submitted by Cardoso's team indicates that only $5.5 billion will be collected.

The SRF also estimates that tax revenues collected from the IR will exceed the economic team's estimates by $1.32 billion. Experts verified in their studies that estimates of IPI collection had been underestimated by $600 million.

The study made by Cardoso's team even made an underestimate of this year's tax revenues. Now that taxes have already been collected during seven months, SRF experts believe that tax revenues will add up to $74.32 billion this year. Cardoso's team reckons on collecting some $72.33 billion. They also estimate that the money collected in IR, IPI, and social security contributions will be much less than the amount estimated by the SRF.

Additionally, just before Congress starts discussing the constitutional reform, the government increased the possible budget deficit for 1994 by not including what it is going to save in the payment of its domestic debt. The economic team intends to cut down on government spending in next year's budget. It will be slashed from $13 billions to $5 billion, including expenses for servicing its domestic debt.

The Finance Ministry will exchange the treasury bills that are part of the Central Bank's [BC] portfolio with other government bonds having up to 20 years' maturity and bearing a lower interest rate than the current one—approximately 17-percent above the inflation rate annually. The idea behind this is to replace the treasury bills held by the BC—which are worth $35 billion—with bonds which are pegged to exchange rate variations and bear a 6-percent annual interest rate, such as the ones prevalent on the international market.

Chile

South Africa's De Klerk Arrives on Official Visit

PY2408220893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] South African President Frederik de Klerk arrived in a private Lear jet for a two-day official visit to Chile.

South African security agents, businessmen, and journalists had arrived in Santiago one hour earlier.

The presidential aircraft, in turn, touched down on the tarmac at 1105. De Klerk was welcomed by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, and in less than 15 minutes was on his way to La Moneda Palace.

De Klerk was received at La Constitucion Square by President Patricio Aylwin. The two presidents then held a one-hour meeting. At the end of the meeting De Klerk said he had explained the legal and dynamic process currently under way in South Africa, and also said they had discussed economic prospects for the two countries.

Mayor Presents Keys to City

MB2508065393 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2211 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Report by Lorraine Braid]

[Text] Santiago Aug 24 SAPA—The keys of Santiago were being presented to President F. W. de Klerk because of his quality of leadership, intelligence and brave reforms, the mayor of Santiago, Mr. Jaime Ravinet, said on Tuesday [24 August].

"Santiago is enormously proud to receive Don Frederik de Klerk. He is one of the most exposed and courageous protagonists on the international political scene," he said before handing the keys of the city to President de Klerk.

Mr. Ravinet said the key of the city was not only an honour for Mr. de Klerk, but for all the people of South Africa.

"He is a man who has dedicated himself to the democratic process and is unquestionably a political leader

who is helping his nation to re-integrate itself into the international community and opening new horizons of justice and progress."

Mr. de Klerk said both countries faced exciting challenges. "We both have many problems but we should look beyond them and realise that we are fortunate to live in a time of creativity to build something better than we had before. I accept this honour in all humiliation on behalf of all political leaders in South Africa striving to find reconciliation through negotiation."

The city was a place "where things happen, it has a pulse and dynamism." He said he looked forward to the day he could welcome Mr. Ravinet to South Africa.

The Chileans referred to Mr. de Klerk as "Don Frederik de Klerk" which is a special title of high respect.

Mr. and Mrs. de Klerk were welcomed to the City Hall by a colourful traditional band and many children in national dress, waving both national flags.

After the ceremony, the South African party went into the central hall where a folk song and dance was performed. They then drank "chicha en cacho"—comparable to witblitz [moonshine] from a special horn, which is also a traditional form of welcome.

Pronouncement on Border Conflict 'Harmful'

PY2508010893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said that the pronouncement on the Laguna del Desierto conflict by Chilean legislators harms national interests. The minister today made a public appeal to the politicians who, on 21 August, commented on the illegal occupation of the conflict zone known as the Laguna del Desierto.

The minister sent a letter to Chamber of Deputies President Jorge Molina mentioning the criticism by 47 deputies who questioned the way the issue is being handled. He said that all sectors involved, including political and military groups, were duly consulted regarding the agreements signed between the Chilean and Argentine governments. Silva Cimma said there is a commitment by both parties to maintain the existing situation and to abide by the agreements approved in August 1991. There is a commitment to maintain the situation in the disputed area, Silva Cimma stressed.

[Begin recording] There is a commitment between our two nations to maintain the situation that existed at the time the agreement was signed in August 1991. It is harmful and not fitting to the national interest to try to restate problems or to recall the circumstances that existed before 1965—the so-called critical date according to the agreement signed between the two countries in August 1991. [end recording]

Silva Cimma said the solving of border disputes is a state matter and the note issued by the 47 legislators is harmful. He said:

[Begin recording] This is a serious document because it raises very important problems. We are forced to address this issue given the number of legislators who referred to it and who demand certain positions that cannot be met. They cannot be met because they are not in the best interests of Chile and they are contrary to the norms of arbitration in this type of dispute. [end recording]

The foreign minister concluded: We ask legislators to refrain from commenting because this could hurt or disturb the ongoing arbitration process.

* Investigation Into Political Murder Case Closed

93SM0374B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Jul 93 pp C1, C10

[Text] Eight years and four months after the events, Minister Milton Juica Arancibia has completed the investigation into the kidnapping and murder of the communist professionals Manuel Guerrero, Jose Manuel Parada, and Santiago Nattino, which occurred at the end of March 1985 in Santiago.

The judge, who began the investigation in May of 1989, made his decision after determining that all of the inquiries into the case had been completed. A reenactment of the scene at which the bodies were found abandoned in the Americo Vespucio military sector near the Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport had been staged six days earlier.

Six of the 20 persons charged in the trial of the so-called "cutthroat case" participated in this reenactment. They were former Carabineers Jose Fuentes Castro, Alejandro Saez, and Claudio Salazar; former lieutenant colonel in the Carabineers Guillermo Gonzalez Betancourt, the leader of the group; former major in the Carabineers Patricio Zamora; and the informant Miguel Estay Reyno (El Fanta), who was arrested in Paraguay.

The site in question was cordoned off by about 100 uniformed policemen on this occasion. Also present there were criminal experts from the Homicide Brigade.

During the investigation, the final stage of which was carried out under the terms of the "effective repentance" order, it was determined that the murders occurred in the barracks maintained by the former DICOMCAR [Carabineers' Communications Directorate]. The building, which was owned by the now defunct daily newspaper CLARIN on 18th Street, was later demolished.

The conclusion of the proceeding decreed by the examining judge, Milton Juica Arancibia, could be appealed by the parties in the case to the court of appeals in the capital.

The resolution issued by the judge concluding the proceeding read as follows: "Whereas: It is believed that all of the procedures required to investigate the punishable deeds under study, as well as the investigation of those who appear to be responsible for these deeds, have been completed, this proceeding is declared ended.

"The prisoners on trial, as well as the prosecutor in this court, Marcial Garcia Pica, will be personally notified, in accordance with the provisions of the final paragraph of Article 26b of the Criminal Procedures Code."

On 28 March 1985, Santiago Nattino Allende, the communist artist and collaborator with the Chilean Educators' Association (AGECH), which no longer exists, was arrested at the intersection of Badajoz and Apoquindo.

That same day, an exchange of shots and the kidnapping of sociologist Jose Manuel Parada, an employee in the legal department of what was then the Solidarity Vicariat, and Professor Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, president of the Metropolitan Council of the AGECH, also occurred opposite the Latin American Integration College.

The following day, 29 March, writs of habeas corpus were filed for those who had disappeared, and the government assigned an investigating magistrate to clarify the circumstances of the shoot-out and kidnapping.

On 30 March, two peasants, Nelson and Jose Ruiz, found three bodies on the left shoulder of the road leading to Quilicura. They were lying between 30 and 50 meters apart, opposite the El Retiro Farm. The Homicide Investigation Brigade, Carabineers personnel, and security officers were immediately dispatched to cordon off the site.

For reasons of territorial jurisdiction, the first investigation into the case fell to Magistrate Aida Travezan, of the 26th Criminal Court in Lo Prado. On 1 April, the Supreme Court, sitting in plenary session, appointed the late Judge Jose Canovas Robles as special investigating judge for the case.

On 1 August 1985, the first indictments and instructions for bond were issued, citing 12 uniformed policemen.

On that same date, Judge Canovas Robles recused himself and remitted the case to the military courts. Three days after that, the military authorities ruled that the civilian courts had jurisdiction in the case. In October, this decision was upheld by the Supreme Court in October, and the case was sent back to Canovas.

On 30 August, the judge again disqualified himself, and recommended that seven uniformed policemen be charged with responsibility for the AGECH kidnapping case.

At the beginning of October, the jurisdicti[illegible] of Canovas in the case was confirmed by the Supreme Court.

On 28 March 1989, Judge Jose Canovas resigned from the judiciary, and on 22 May 1989, Milton Juica Arancibia, a judge of the Court of Appeals in Santiago was appointed to handle the continuation of the case.

Nineteen former uniformed policemen and one civilian, Miguel Estay Reyno, face indictments in a series of cases being heard by examining Magistrate Juica Arancibia concerning the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals; the kidnapping for a few hours of five former leaders of the now defunct AGECH; unlawful association; the injuries inflicted upon Professor Leopoldo Munoz de la Parra; the kidnapping of the architect Ramon Arriagada Escalante; usurpation of authority; and terrorist crimes.

The names of the defendants and the charges against them are as follows: Luis Alfonso Canto Arriagada (complicity in the AGECH kidnapping), Hector Diaz Anderson (involvement in unlawful terrorist association), Miguel Estay Reyno (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals, the kidnapping of the architect Arriagada Escalante, and usurpation of authority), Jose Florentino Fuentes Castro (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, and the murder of Manuel Guerrero, Jose Manuel Parada, and Santiago Nattino), Guillermo Gonzales Betancourt (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals, the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante, and terrorist crimes), Juan Luis Huaiquimilla Conoepan (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, complicity in the kidnapping of the three communist professionals, the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante, and terrorist crimes, as an accomplice), Julio Hurtado Lazcano (involvement in unlawful terrorist association and complicity in the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante), Luis Ernesto Jofre Herrera (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping of the three communist professionals, and the injuries inflicted upon Prof. Leopoldo Munoz de la Parra), Julio Michea Munoz (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping and unlawful terrorist association), Hector Moya Romero (involvement in unlawful terrorist association), Manuel Agustin Munoz Gamboa (involvement in unlawful terrorist association), Alejandro Segundo Saez Mardones (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals, and the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante), Claudio Salazar Fuentes (involvement in unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals, and the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante), Santiago San Martin (complicity in the AGECH kidnapping), Ramon Valenzuela Cuevas (involvement in unlawful terrorist association), Patricio Zamora Rodriguez (involvement in the AGECH kidnapping, unlawful terrorist association, the kidnapping and murder of the three communist professionals, and the injuries inflicted upon Prof.

Leopoldo Munoz de la Parra), Sergio Enrique Saravia Henriquez (complicity in the AGECH kidnapping and in the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante), Jose Francisco Candia Salazar (complicity in the kidnapping of Arriagada Escalante), Oscar Valdebenito (complicity in the AGECH kidnapping and in the kidnapping of Ramon Arriagada Escalante), and Carlos Rosa Ramos Hernandez (complicity in the AGECH kidnapping).

The prosecuting attorney, Nelson Caucoto, stated that the decision handed down by Judge Juica represents a crucial step in the process. "The proceeding concludes with 20 individuals under indictment, eight of them subject to preventive custody, and 12 free on bond," the prosecutor added.

He said that "one of the most important parts of the criminal investigation, that in which the examining magistrate has now established the facts and the liability of each of the individuals indicted," has come to an end.

Caucoto added that the conclusion of the proceeding will not be appealed. He said that the prosecution supports the resolution and believes that "this trial must be carried through to the end in a way consistent with the success achieved to date. We must not forget that this has been a process that has taken eight years, but was blocked for more than six."

If the parties in the case do not appeal the decree, the examining magistrate will be able to order formal arraignments soon. This will place the case in the hands of the prosecutors, first, and if they accept it, they can then formulate specific charges and file suit in civil court.

* ASMAR Building Tanker, Tugboat in Malaysian Joint Venture

93SM0374A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Jul 93 p B18

[Text] ASMAR [Naval Docks and Yards], an enterprise connected with the Navy, has been awarded an important contract in Malaysia for the construction of an oil tanker for the Petronas firm, at a cost of US$7 million. The Chilean company was awarded the contract after an invitation to bid was extended by Timer Offshore, through the joint venture in which it has been engaged since last August with the Malaysian Ironwood Shipyard firm.

This information was published in a report in STAR BUSINESS, which indicated that this is the second major contract obtained by the Chilean-Malaysian venture. It won this contract over five other bids submitted by three Malaysian shipyards and two of the largest ones in Singapore.

The contract calls for the construction of a vessel weighing 4,000 tons at a cost of 21 million ringgits (the Malaysian currency), the equivalent of US$7 million.

The contract for the project was signed in Kuala Lumpur last month. The oil tanker, the largest of its class, will be built at a shipyard in Sarawak. It will measure 80 meters in length and 15.6 meters across the beam and will carry a crew of 22. Delivery is scheduled for July of 1994.

The manager of the project, Archibald G. Clark, said that Ironwood and ASMAR were awarded the contract because they offered a competitive price and high-quality services.

He said that to facilitate the building of the new oil tanker, a new slip capable of handling vessels of up to 5,000 tons will be built at the Ironwood Shipyard works in Bintowa. It is expected that the pilot project will begin within the next two weeks. A new building will also be constructed.

It was also announced that the new slip, the new building, and other equipment will require a capital investment of at least five million ringgits

Plans also call for a second slip to be built, if necessary, to handle the construction of larger vessels.

A computerized machine for cutting planking will be shipped from England within a month. The cost is estimated at 600,000 ringgits.

Clark revealed that ASMAR, the firm that is providing Ironwood with the technical-administrative services for this venture, has sent 20 experienced Chilean technicians to form a team with local experts to work on the joint project. Another 10 Chilean technicians will arrive at the site soon.

The other joint project being undertaken by ASMAR and Ironwood is the construction of a port tugboat for the Penang Port Commission. It will measure 28 meters in length and will cost 10.4 million ringgits. This vessel is to be completed later this year.

Clark also said that the award of two major contracts to Ironwood and ASMAR should convince local shipowners that these firms have the capability to built large vessels, so that there is no longer any need to look beyond Sarawak for the construction of their ships.

The joint managing director of Ironwood, Richard Sim, said that the local staff of this firm will be doubled to a total of about 260 employees in order to handle the various major projects under way.

Clark said that in order to improve repair and maintenance services, a slip with an assembly-line system, the first in Sarawak, will be built. With this equipment, it will be possible to repair 10 vessels simultaneously.

Plans also call for establishing a modern mechanical workshop at a cost of about three million ringgits to enable the shipyard to repair ships' engines and pumps. It will be equipped with test benches for engines, fuel-injection equipment, and tools for the repair of engines and other systems.

Clark also said that Ironwood has excellent experience in naval construction and repair and will continue to develop still further, thanks to the technical-administrative services of ASMAR. Currently, the available capacity is not being fully utilized.

5157

Ecuador

Declaration, Agreements Signed With Venezuela

PA2408214693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2030 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Quito, 20 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Ecuadoran and Venezuelan Governments signed a joint declaration here today. In the declaration, they confirmed their commitment to act in favor of the consolidation of democracy in Latin America. They also asserted that the democratic system is essential to preserve peace, achieve development and social justice, ensure full respect for human rights, and promote cooperation and integration among the countries.

Foreign Ministers Diego Paredes of Ecuador and Fernando Ochoa of Venezuela signed a document assembled from the results of the talks held in Quito 20-23 August. In the document, they report that "serious" political, economic, and social effects negatively affecting the Latin American region have resulted from the laundering of money obtained from drugs.

The foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction with the processes initiated by several nations in the region to find "just, peaceful, and definite" solutions to the territorial problems that "still persist."

In terms of economics, the high-ranking officials called for the prompt completion of GATT's Uruguay Round, which will create new opportunities for the economic growth of developing countries. They also took on a commitment to increase their efforts, vis-a-vis the EC, to resolve the problem of economic restrictions against banana shipments coming from Latin America, which started to be imposed last month.

Ecuador and Venezuela agreed on the need to promote and support the structural reform and economic opening processes that will result in a "greater commercial liberation" and increased trade. The objective is to encourage strengthening the production sectors, increase the flow of investments, and obtain more benefits from a more extensive commercial opening.

The foreign ministries of Quito and Caracas signed several bilateral cooperation agreements a few hours before Minister Ochoa's official three-day visit ended. Among the agreements signed were several to prevent and control illegal drug trafficking and to promote the cooperation and integration of the Latin American countries.

The officials also ratified the existing agreement on paid jobs for dependents of officials assigned to diplomatic missions and consular offices in both countries.

The foreign ministers agreed on a special regulation for "business visas" that will give businessmen and managers from both countries easier entry and expedite economic and commercial exchange.

The Venezuelan foreign minister's official activities will conclude tonight at a ceremony where he will decorate the Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen with a Caracas Government award.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Sworn In as Senator for Life

PY2408161693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Aug 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Former President Andres Rodriguez yesterday became the first senator for life after being sworn in during a regular Senate session.

Senate President Evelio Fernandez, who is an Authentic Radical Liberal Party member, swore in Rodriguez, who then was applauded by most of the lawmakers attending the session.

After sitting in his place, the former president took the floor to deliver a short message to "thank you for the privilege the Constitution grants me to attend the deliberations of this high legislative body, even if my contribution will be very modest."

The Constitution approved last year establishes the novel figure of senator for life for "former presidents who were democratically elected." According to the Constitution, senators for life have the right to express their opinion but not to vote. [passage omitted]